

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 17-19, and 22-33 are now all the claims pending in the application. Claim 1, formerly independent, has been made dependent from independent claim 2. Claim 22, formerly independent, has been made dependent from independent claim 23.

Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 10-16, 20, and 21 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

The objection to claim 20 is obviated by the cancellation of the claim.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-15, 17-19, 22, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Otsuki in view of Mizuno. Of these claims, only claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 17-19, 22, and 23 are pending, and only claims 2 and 23 are independent. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, first with respect to independent claim 2, which requires:

a first sensor ... that detects an edge of
said medium ...

a second sensor ... that detects a pattern
formed on said medium ...

wherein said first sensor is provided
further upstream with regard to said
carrying direction than said second sensor.

The prior art does not teach or suggest a printing apparatus having this arrangement and in which the first sensor detects an edge, and the second sensor detects a pattern, and the second sensor is provided downstream of the first sensor. According to this configuration, however, there is an effect such that the second sensor is provided in a position in which the pattern formed by the head can easily be detected.

Applicant respectfully points out that Otsuki does not meet the above-identified requirements of independent claim 2, and neither does Mizuno. Even taken for what they would have meant as a whole to an artisan of ordinary skill, the combined teachings of these two references would not have (and could not have) led the artisan of ordinary skill to the subject matter of this arrangement.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant herewith petitions the Director of the USPTO to extend the time for reply to the above-identified Office Action for an appropriate length of time, if necessary. Unless a check is attached, any fee due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) is being paid via the USPTO Electronic Filing System, or if not paid through EFS, the USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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